

Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §112, ¶

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12 as being indefinite since claim 1 does not set forth any steps involved in the method. Claim 1 has been amended to explicitly set forth the action taken for each step of the method. Applicant asserts that the rejection of claims 1-12 are thus traversed and respectfully requests reversal of the rejection under §112.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 6-9 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 5,303,050 (Nishimura et al). Amended claim 1 is essentially a combination of original claims 1 and 3 and corresponds to the already granted UK-Patent 2,398,956. The method according to amended claim 1 distinguishes over Nishimura. Its advantages are described in the description (see page 7, column 8-18). The amended claim 1 is new over the prior art, namely over Nishimura (per examiners point 5).

Nishimura discloses a video camera apparatus including a video camera and a camera control unit for generating a control signal for the video camera. The camera control unit enables to receive a video signal with synchronization information from the camera, to generate a phase difference signal, corresponding to a phase difference between the video signal and a reference signal, and to transmit a control signal with said phase difference to the camera (abstract, claim 1). In the camera a certain synchronization takes place (column 8, lines 37 to 41). The camera control unit, however, comprises synchronization means with storage means for storing the received video signal. In order to obtain a synchronized video signal, means of the camera control unit reads the stored video signal from that storage means (claim 1).

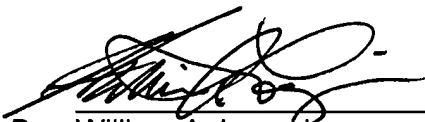
A purpose of the instant invention is, to provide a fast method for synchronizing time bases of video devices, i.e. for synchronizing signals. According to the amended claim 1 of the invention, there is provided a method which enables a fast synchronization of a video signal to a reference signal, i.e. to

a second time base. In the method it is determined a phase difference between a video signal from a first device, e.g. a camera, and a reference signal, i.e. a time base from a second device, e.g. a camera control unit, corresponding to a reference signal. The phase difference is used to generate a synchronized video signal from camera (amended claim 1, steps a) to d)). In particular, not only an existence but a quantitative measurement of the phase difference is determined and transmitted to the camera, where the video signal is adapted in a single step. In order to keep the time required for transmitting the phase difference to the camera small, two types of control information are used, where the number of bits of the first type control information is restricted. The second type control information allows a fine adjustment of the image phase in the camera (steps e) to g)). The adjustment by applying the phase shift represented by the second type control information may be different from the abrupt switching which is carried out based on the first type control information. As a result, the fact that the first type control information only has a limited resolution is compensated by further transmitting the second type control information. By amendment of claim 1 Applicant sincerely believes rejection of claim 1 has been traversed and respectfully requests removal of the rejection. Claims 2-12, being dependent on an allowed base claim or on a dependent claim depending from an allowable base claim are also allowable. Claims 13-15 have been cancelled, rendering moot their rejection.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 5,990,967 (Kawakami et al). Claim 16 has been cancelled, making its rejection moot.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at (317) 587-4029, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,


By: William A. Lagoni
Reg. No. 47,730
Phone (317) 587-4029

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312
June 23, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

3/23/07
Date


William A. Lagoni